What is claimed is:

1.   A method, comprising:

        receiving data relating to a database system;

        receiving, from the device, information associated with at least one characteristic of the data;

        partitioning the data for storage in a database system having plural data storage units based on the characteristic associated with the data; and

        storing the partitioned data in one or more storage units of the database system.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information comprises receiving the information from a client system, the device comprising the client system.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information comprises receiving at least one of an average value of the data, a uniform distribution of the data, a minimum value of the data, and a maximum value of the data.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein partitioning the data comprises defining straight-line segments based on at least one of the average value of the data, the uniform distribution of the data, the minimum value of the data, and the maximum value of the data.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein partitioning the data further comprises defining breakpoints to provide the straight-line segments.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein partitioning the data for storage in the database system comprises dividing the data into segments containing related data.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein partitioning the data comprises organizing

2   the data into related portions.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein partitioning the data further comprises

2   executing an algorithm to organize the data.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein storing the partitioned data in the database

2   system comprises storing the partitioned data in a relational database system.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the partitioned data

2   under the supervision of a limited number of data servers relating to the database system.

1   11.   An apparatus, comprising:

2   a database;

3   a network interface;

4   a database controller coupled to the database, wherein the database

5   controller is adapted to receive partitioning information and perform a partitioning task

6   on data received through the network interface based on the partitioning information,

7   the database controller adapted to further store the data that is partitioned

8   by the partitioning task, the partitioning task to identify one or more portions of the

9   database in which each segment of the partitioned data is stored.

1   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the database is a parallel database system.

1   13.   The system of claim 11, wherein the database is a relational database.

1   14.   The system of claim 11, wherein the database controller comprises:

2   a query coordinator coupled to the network interface, the query coordinator

3 to receive query requests from the network interface;

4   a partitioner to partition data and perform at least one of storing and

5 locating partitioned data in the database in response to the query requests; and

6   a partitioner data storage coupled to the partitioner, the partitioner data

7 storage to store information associated with at least one characteristic of the data to

8 enable the partitioner to partition data.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, wherein the partitioner is capable of executing an

2 algorithm, based on the stored information, for partitioning the data.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, further comprising a plurality of data servers to

2 store and access partitioned data in the database.

1   17.   The system of claim 11, further comprising a client system, wherein the

2 client system sends data to the database through the network interface.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the client system sends at least one

2 characteristic of the data to be used by the database controller to partition the data.

1   19.   An article comprising one or more storage media containing instructions

2 that when executed cause a device to:

3   receive information associated with at least one characteristic of data to be

4 stored into a database from a remote device;

5   partition the data for storage in a database system based on the

6 characteristic of the data; and

7   store the partitioned data in the database system.

1   20.   The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2 device to execute an algorithm to partition the data.

1   21.   The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   device to divide the data into segments containing related data.